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The Massport  
School  
Soundproofing  
Program

*Finally,  
Students can hear  
themselves think!*

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
COLLECTION

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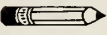
A special acknowledgement is given to Robert Whittington, former New England regional director of the Federal Aviation Administration, whose vision and leadership led to the FAA's support for the East Boston High School soundproofing demonstration project. The successful completion of that demonstration project resulted in a nationwide program to soundproof schools. On behalf of school children around the nation's busiest airports, Massport salutes Mr. Whittington's support of the school soundproofing program.



## A Noisy Path To School.

**N**ot long ago, there was a serious problem in many schools in and around Boston. It had to do with students not hearing what their teachers were saying. It wasn't because these students didn't want to hear. It's just that it's tough to concentrate on school work when a 747 or a DC-8 is taking off overhead.




 And that's exactly what was happening at schools around Logan Airport. Each school day, over and over again, students and teachers would stop and wait as plane after plane roared by. The daily ritual was tiresome, annoying, slowed the learning process, and produced a generally uncomfortable learning environment.

## The High Cost Of Overhead.


The reason for the intense noise was jets taking off and landing at Logan International Airport. Unlike most major airports in the country, Logan is set in the middle of densely populated neighbor-



hoods. And because of the flight paths used by airlines coming and going at Logan, many neighborhood schools were affected by airplane noise. While the noise abatement program at Massport, operator of Logan Airport, is among the most active in the nation, airplanes still make noise.

 So Massport decided to do something about the problem of airplane noise in area schools. The Authority

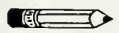
has a few basic beliefs about how to run an airport, especially one so close to people's homes and schools. The first belief has to do with being a good neighbor — as good as an airport can be. That means active participation on Massport's part, going beyond what's required.

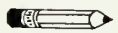
 David Davis, executive director of Massport, put it this way: "When we say that we want Logan to run well, we're talking about serving people's needs, whether they're airport users or neighbors."




## A Lesson Plan For Quieter Classes.



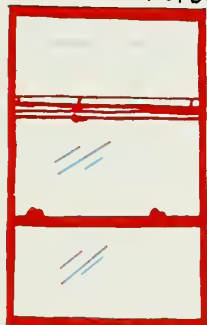
Today the situation in area schools is very different. Planes still take off and land at Logan, day after day. In fact, air traffic at the nation's tenth busiest airport increased 42 percent between 1981 and 1988. But just as important, noise in the classroom is down — significantly. Now, students are listening and hearing what their teachers have to say without aircraft interference.  Here's how it happened.

 In 1981, with support from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Massport was awarded a first-of-its-kind grant to soundproof a school. East Boston High School was chosen, in part, because jet aircraft pass so close, that by looking out the window, students and teachers could read the airline's number on the aircraft. It was also chosen because the school is located less than a mile from the airport, set on an eighty foot hill in line with a Logan runway.

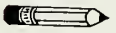
Roughly 42 percent of the runway's operations occurred during school hours, causing so many interruptions that 17 percent of the school day was lost when the runway was in heavy use.

 Large, drafty old windows were replaced with smaller, state-of-the-art interior windows and Lexan storm windows which produced an improvement of 26 decibels of noise relief. This

THANKS MASSPORT!

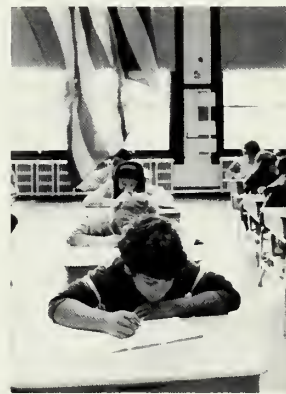


improvement amounts to approximately an 84 percent reduction in sound energy entering the classroom. Aircraft noise is now virtually inaudible. In addition to classroom benefits, school systems have experienced greatly reduced heating costs.

 Based on Massport's successful results in Boston, the FAA established a permanent program of financial assistance to airports nationwide.

## Doing Our Homework.

A number of factors are taken into consideration in deciding which schools should be included in the program. First, in order to be eligible for consideration, the schools must meet the FAA guidelines for noise impacted areas. The second consideration is the level of impact. For example, while one school might be situated farther from the airport than another, that first one might be in line with a more frequently used flight path, and therefore, exposed to higher airplane noise levels. The level of impact establishes a priority order for treating schools.



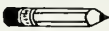



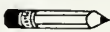
## The Plane Facts.



Since 1982, Massport has soundproofed 24 schools and three more schools are to be soundproofed during summer 1989. The results have been even better than expected: the average reduction in noise in these schools was about 20 decibels. Results ranged from cutting noise by half at the Kennedy School in East Boston to a three-fold improvement at St. Augustine's in South Boston. Classrooms are a better, quieter environment for learning. From East Boston to South Boston, Winthrop to Chelsea to Roxbury, students can finally hear themselves think.

## A Class Act.

Massport's school soundproofing program works because a lot of people made it work. As David Davis said, "None of this could have happened without the support of the Federal Aviation Administration. They've been highly responsive in helping Massport pursue a bold, effective noise abatement course."  And there are others: dedicated, concerned Massport workers, school administrators, local government officials, community and aviation leaders.

 Through a concerted effort by concerned people, Massport's school soundproofing program is a class act.  Listen to what some of them have to say.



Sound  
Off

## A Blessing.

“The installation of the soundproofed windows has made a big difference at St. Mary’s School. The noise has been greatly reduced and the building looks much better. We’re grateful for the chance to publicly thank Massport.”

Sister Mary Macrina, St. Mary’s School,  
East Boston, MA.

## Going To The Poles.

“This program has been so successful in East Boston, Roxbury, and Chelsea that it led to similar programs nationwide. That’s impressive.”

Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives,  
Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr.

“As a member of the House Sub-committee on Community Development, I’m pleased to see Massport working successfully in the neighborhoods. Whether it’s at St. Mary’s School in East Boston, the Nathan Hale School in Roxbury or the Shurtleff School in Chelsea, Massport has shown that it’s a big agency with a human face. This program works for everyone.”

Congressman Joe Kennedy, D-Massachusetts



“Since 1981, when Massport received the first FAA grant to soundproof a school, the FAA has supported the program completely. We see the soundproofing program as a reflection of our overall philosophy towards the community, working not just to create a healthy airport, but a healthy community, too. This is one element in a larger process to make living around Logan a little easier. That’s Massport’s job, and that’s our job.”

Vincent Scarano, manager, Airports Division,  
Federal Aviation Administration,  
Burlington, MA.

### **Straight “A”s For The Program.**

“It’s been a tremendous improvement cosmetically. This is an old building and there were dents in the screens. Now what you see are the clean lines of the windows. Plus it’s saved us a great deal of money on heating. There’s been a substantial reduction not only in airplane noise but in street noise, too.”

Phillip Matthews, principal,  
James Otis School,  
East Boston, MA.

“We’re very pleased with the windows. They’ve helped immeasurably. The classrooms on the top floor of our school were really affected by the plane noise, but now it’s much quieter. One of the best things they’ve done is help with lighting. The new windows are bigger and let a lot more light through. We all notice the difference now.”

P.A. Marino, principal,  
Mason School, Roxbury, MA.

“The windows help, absolutely. Planes go right over one section of the building. We’re only a half mile from the airport. It was unbearable. Teachers had to stop in the middle of sentences. I’ve been here 21 years and believe me we notice the difference. Now teachers can teach. The old windows were the original windows going back to the 1920s. They’ve made a real difference in keeping the building warmer, too. That was the first thing the kids noticed. When kids tell me they’re warmer, they’re warmer.”

John Poto, headmaster  
East Boston High School.



Students from St. Stanislaus School in Chelsea listen as Governor Michael S. Dukakis and other local officials praise Massport's soundproofing efforts.



(left to right) Val Kowalski, chairman, Chelsea Redevelopment Authority; Michael S. Dukakis, governor; Richard A. Giesser, chairman of the Massport board; and Francis D. Doris, state senator.

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